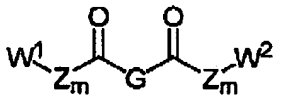
## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the current application.

## Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended). A compound of a formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein

(a) each occurrence of Z is ~~independently~~ $CH_2$, ~~$CH=CH$, or phenyl,~~ and wherein each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9~~, but when Z is phenyl then its associated m is 1~~;

(b) G is $(CH_2)_x$, ~~$CH_2CH=CHCH_2$, $CH=CH$, $CH_2$-phenyl-$CH_2$, or phenyl,~~ wherein x is 2, 3, or 4;

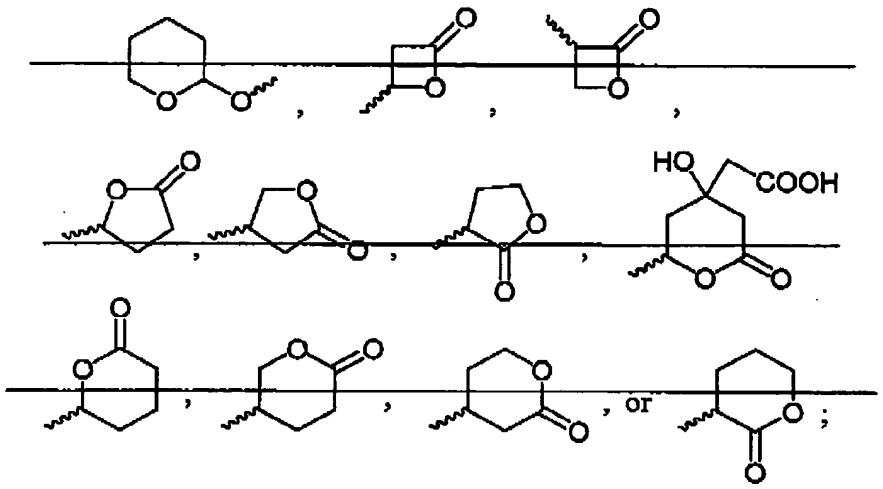
(c) $W^1$ and $W^2$ are independently L~~, V,~~ or $C(R^1)(R^2)$–$(CH_2)_c$–$C(R^3)(R^4)$–$(CH_2)_n$–Y~~, or $C(R^1)(R^2)$–$(CH_2)_c$–V,~~ wherein c is 1 or 2 and n is an independent integer ranging from 0 to 4;

(d) $R^1$ and $R^2$ are independently $CO_2H$, $CO_2(C_1$–$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$–$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$–$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$–$C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl or when $W^1$ or $W^2$ is $C(R^1)(R^2)$–$(CH_2)_c$–$C(R^3)(R^4)$–Y, then $R^1$ and $R^2$ can both be H, or $R^1$ and $R^2$ and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a $(C_3$–$C_7)$cycloakyl group;

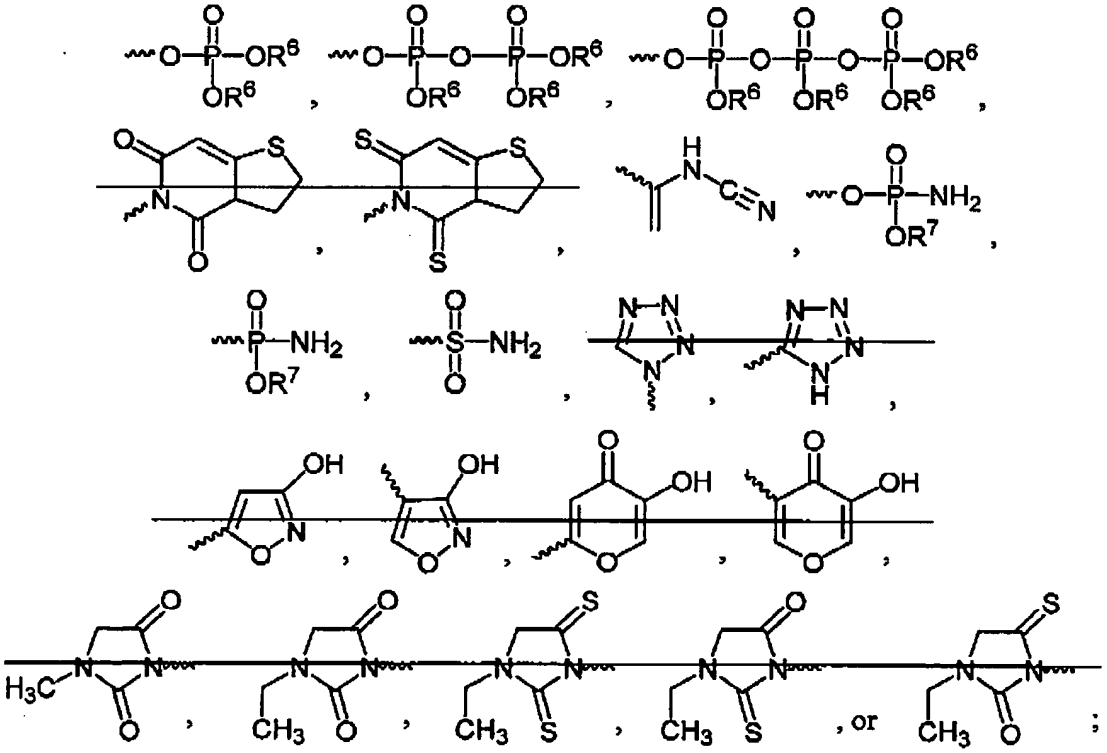
(e) $R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently H, OH, $CO_2H$, $CO_2(C_1$–$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$–$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$–$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$–$C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_1$–$C_6)$alkoxy, phenyl, benzyl, Cl, Br, CN, $NO_2$, or $CF_3$, with the proviso that when $R^1$ and $R^2$ are both H, then one of $R^3$ or $R^4$ is not H or $R^3$ and $R^4$ and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a $(C_3$–$C_7)$cycloakyl group::

(f) L is $C(R^1)(R^2)$–$(CH_2)_n$–Y;

~~(g) V is~~



~~(h)~~(g) Y is $(C_1$–$C_6)$alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, $COOR^5$, $SO_3H$,



where

(I) $R^5$ is $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii) each occurrence of $R^6$ is independently H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, or $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and

(iii) each occurrence of $R^7$ is independently H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, or $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl; and

provided that:

(i) if ~~G is $(CH_2)_x$,~~ x is 4, ~~each occurrence of Z is $CH_2$,~~ each occurrence of m is 4, and $W^1$ is $-CH(CH_3)CO_2H$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$; and

~~(ii) if G is $CH_2$-phenyl-$CH_2$, each occurrence of Z is $CH_2$, each occurrence of m is 2, and $W^1$ is $-C(CH_3)_2CH(CO_2CH_2CH_3)_2$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$;~~

~~(iii) if G is $CH_2$-phenyl-$CH_2$, each occurrence of Z is $CH_2$, each occurrence of m is 2, and $W^1$ is $-C(CH_3)_2CH_2(CO_2CH_2CH_3)$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$;~~

~~(iv) if G is $CH_2$-phenyl-$CH_2$, each occurrence of Z is $CH_2$, each occurrence of m is 1, and $W^1$ is $-COCH_2C(CH_3)_2CH_2CO_2H$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$;~~

~~(v)~~(ii) if ~~G is $(CH_2)_x$,~~ x is 4, ~~each occurrence of Z is $CH_2$,~~ each occurrence of m is 2, and $W^1$ is $-C(\text{phenyl})_2CH_2CO_2H$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$;

~~(vi) if G is CH=CH, each occurrence of Z is $CH_2$, each occurrence of m is 1, and $W^1$ is $-C(CH_3)_2CH_2(CO_2H)$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$; and~~

~~(vii) if G is phenyl, each occurrence of Z is $CH_2$, each occurrence of m is 1, and $W^1$ is $C(phenyl)_2CO_2H$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended). The compound of claim 1, wherein:

~~(a)~~ $W^1$ and $W^2$ are ~~independently~~ both ~~L, V, or $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_c$-V where c is 1 or 2;~~ and

~~(b) $R^1$ or $R^2$ are independently $(C_1-C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2-C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2-C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl~~.

Claims 3 (original). The compound of claim 1, wherein $W^1$ is L.

Claim 4 (canceled).

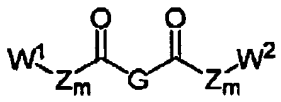
Claim 5 (original). The compound of claim 1, wherein $W^1$ is $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_c-C(R^3)(R^4)-(CH_2)_n$-Y.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (original). The compound of claim 1, wherein $W^1$ and $W^2$ are independent L groups.

Claim 8 (original). The compound of claim 7, wherein each occurrence of Y is independently $(CH_2)_nOH$, $(CH_2)_nCOOR^5$, or $(CH_2)_nCOOH$.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A compound of the formula Ia:



**Ia**

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein

(a) each occurrence of Z is ~~independently~~ $CH_2$ ~~or CH=CH~~, wherein each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9;

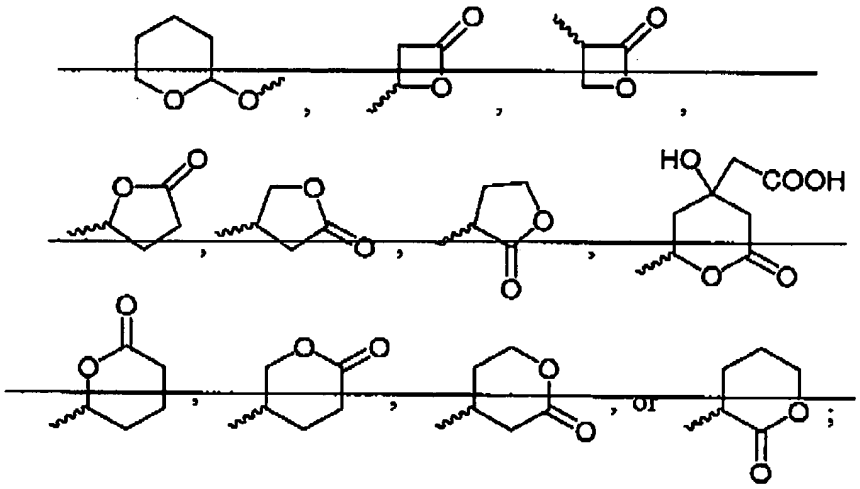
(b) G is $(CH_2)_x$, ~~$CH_2CH=CHCH_2$, or CH=CH~~, where x is 2, 3, or 4;

(c) $W^1$ and $W^2$ are independently ~~L, V, or $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_c-V$, where c is 1 or 2~~;

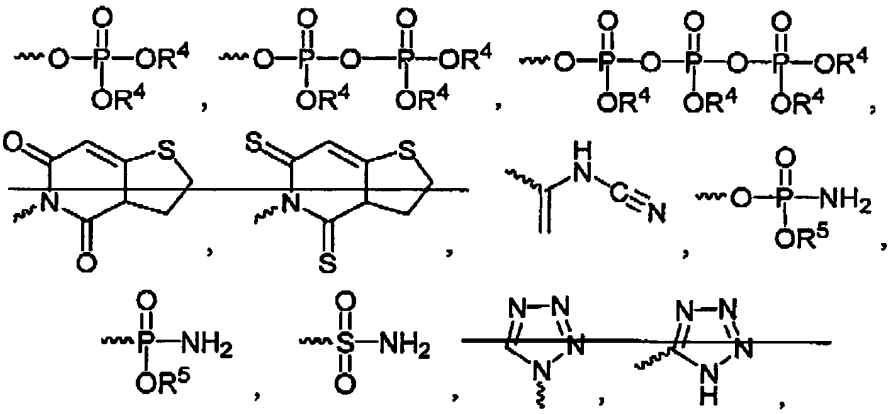
(d) each occurrence of $R^1$ and $R^2$ is independently $CO_2H$, $CO_2(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, or $R^1$ and $R^2$ and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloakyl group;

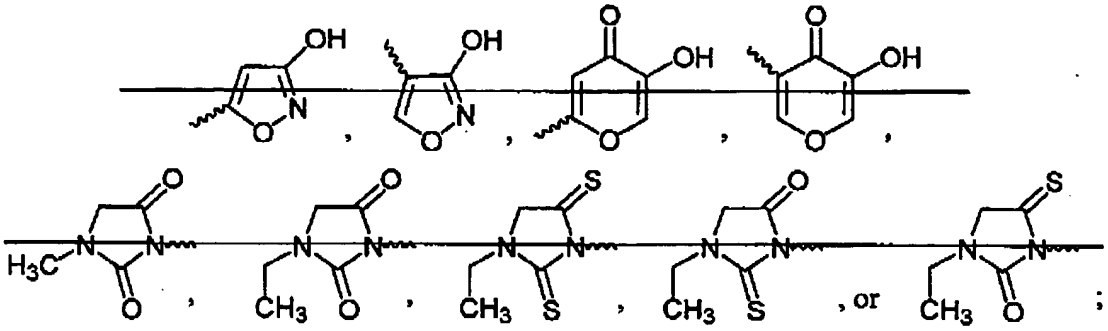
(e) L is $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_n-Y$, where n is an independent integer ranging from 0 to 4;

~~(f) V is~~




(g) each occurrence of Y is independently $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, $(CH_2)_nCOOR^3$, $SO_3H$,





where

~~(I)~~(i) $R^3$ is $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii) each occurrence of $R^4$ is independently H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, or $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and

(iii) each occurrence of $R^5$ is independently H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, or $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl; and

provided that:

(i) if x is 4, each occurrence of Z is $CH_2$, each occurrence of m is 4, and $W^1$ is $-CH(CH_3)CO_2H$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$;

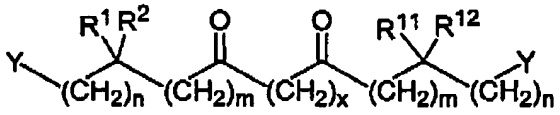
(ii) if x is 4, each occurrence of Z is $CH_2$, each occurrence of m is 2, and $W^1$ is $-C(phenyl)_2CH_2CO_2H$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$.

Claims 10-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (original). The compound of claim 9, wherein $W^1$ and $W^2$ are independent L groups.

Claim 14 (original). The compound of claim 13, wherein each occurrence of Y is independently OH, $COOR^3$, or COOH.

Claim 15 (currently amended). A compound of the formula **Ib**



**Ib**

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein:

(a) each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9;

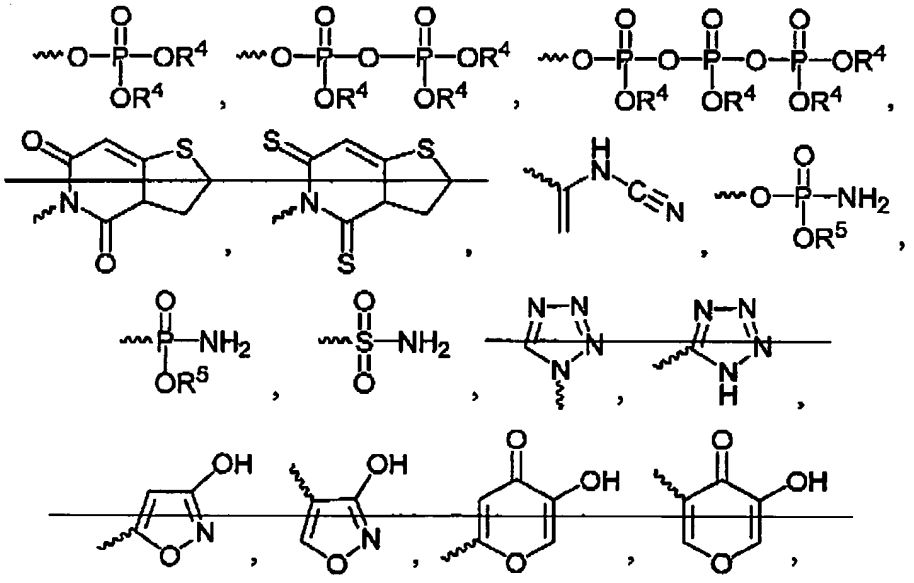
(b) x is 2, 3, or 4;

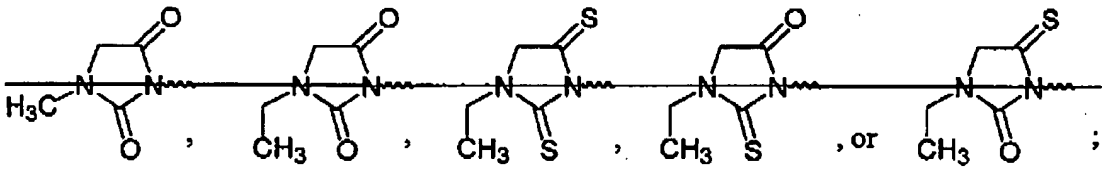
(c) n is an independent integer ranging from 0 to 4;

(d) each occurrence of $R^1$ and $R^2$ is independently $CO_2H$, $CO_2(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, or $R^1$ and $R^2$ and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a $(C_3\text{-}C_7)$cycloakyl group;

(e) each occurrence of $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ is independently H, $CO_2H$, $CO_2(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, or $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a $(C_3\text{-}C_7)$cycloakyl group;

(f) each occurrence of Y is independently $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, $COOR^3$, $SO_3H$,





where

(i) $R^3$ is ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, ($C_2$-$C_6$)alkenyl, ($C_2$-$C_6$)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH, ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii) each occurrence of $R^4$ is independently H, ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, ($C_2$-$C_6$)alkenyl, or ($C_2$-$C_6$)alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and

(iii) each occurrence of $R^5$ is independently H, ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, ($C_2$-$C_6$)alkenyl, or ($C_2$-$C_6$)alkynyl;

provided that:

(i) if x is 4 each occurrence of m is 4, and $W^1$ is -$CH(CH_3)CO_2H$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$;

(ii) if x is 4 each occurrence of m is 2, and $W^1$ is -$C(phenyl)_2CH_2CO_2H$, then $W^2$ is not the same as $W^1$.

Claim 16 (original). The compound of claim 15, wherein each occurrence of Y is independently OH, $COOR^3$, or COOH.

Claim 17 (original). The compound of claim 16, wherein each $R^1$ or $R^2$ is the same or different ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl group.

Claim 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (original). A compound according to claim 1, having the formula 5-[2-(5-hydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-pentyloxy)-ethoxy]-2,2-dimethyl-pentan-1-ol or 4-[3-(3,3-Dimethyl-4-oxo-butoxy)-propoxy]-2,2-dimethyl-butyric acid.

Claims 20-33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, excipient, or diluent.

Claim 35 (original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising the following compound: 6-(5,5-Dimethyl-6-hydroxy-hexane-1-sulfinyl)-2,2-dimethyl-hexan-1-ol or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, solvates, clathrates, enantiomers, diasteriomers, racemates, or mixures of steroisomers thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, excipient, or diluent.

Claim 36 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a cardiovascular disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 37 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a dyslipidemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 38 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a dyslipoproteinemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 39 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a disorder of glucose metabolism in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 40 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing Alzheimer's Disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 41 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing Syndrome X or Metabolic Syndrome in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 42 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing septicemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 43 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a thrombotic disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 44 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor associated disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 45 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing obesity in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 46 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing pancreatitis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment

or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 47 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing hypertension in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 48 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing renal disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 49 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing cancer in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 50 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing inflammation in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 51 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing impotence in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 52 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a neurodegenerative disease or disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 53 (currently amended). A method of inhibiting hepatic fatty acid synthesis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 54 (currently amended). A method of inhibiting sterol synthesis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 55 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing metabolic syndrome disorders in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 56 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder that is capable of being treated or prevented by increasing HDL levels, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.

Claim 57 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder that is capable of being treated or prevented by lowering LDL levels, which comprises administering to such patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15~~, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30~~.